Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

Sîan's dreaming of a white Christmas

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Glamorous TV weathergirl Sîan Lloyd used a forecast of a different kind today (Tuesday) to reveal whether we're set for a white Christmas.

Sîan was in London to highlight the Met Office's answer to the nation's annual obsession - the most local and personal five-day weather forecasting service that sends the weather direct to your mobile phone.

And what's more, the Time&Place service - using a WAP handset or the basic text messaging service SMS - means you can find out whether you'll be building snowmen in your back garden, or more likely if you'll be asking for a brolly for Christmas.

Sîan Lloyd said: "Every year we get asked if it will be snowing on Christmas day. The Met Office might not be able to conjure up the white Christmas we want, but they can provide you with your own personal weather forecast for the festive season. It also gives you better odds for betting on the chances of having a white Christmas."

To get your very own Christmas weather forecast direct to your phone, go to the Met Office web site www.metoffice.gov.uk, register your details, and specify what information you'd like to receive. Products range from UK five day forecasts to postcode-resolution forecasts which are updated hourly and to 5 km radius. If you are chasing the winter sun you can also receive forecasts for hundreds of world cities.

For UK five day forecasts select an area of the country to find out what the weather will be like for up to five days ahead. For postcode resolution forecasts, you can enter the areas you're interested in by keying in a postcode or clicking on an interactive map. You can then save the details using specific names, to your phone's memory.

You'll then receive SMS messages, as and when you require them. And it's even easier with a WAP phone, where it's all done using drop-down menus.

The service is payable by pre-paid subscription. Each message costs around 20p, so you can get 50 forecasts for £10 - about the price of an umbrella. For more information on how to be one step ahead of the weather - wherever you are in the world - visit www.metoffice.gov.uk. WAP users can access the service via www.mymetoffice.com/main.wml *

If you have any queries about the web site please call the customer centre on 0870 900 5454.

* only available on WAP handsets for the Time&Place service

For further information:
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